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ABSTRACT

This book addresses the relationship between research universities and the knowledge needs of post-industrial society, focusing on the increased importance of knowledge generation and organization for the economic and social well-being of society. It also discusses how research universities can build better linkages between the expanding knowledge within both the university and in society and can increase the applications and accessibility of that knowledge. Chapter 1 examines the concept of knowledge and the challenges that research universities face. Chapter 2 discusses three spheres of human activity for which knowledge is an increasingly critical resource, namely economic growth, social development, and civic culture. Chapter 3 provides an overview of demographic, social, and economic forces giving rise to constituencies with special knowledge needs to which the work of universities is especially relevant. Chapter 4 offers a matrix for identifying specific knowledge needs by constituency and potential programs to serve those needs. Chapters 5, 6, and 7 describe exemplary programmatic responses at major American research universities to support economic development, enhance human capacities, and nurture a vital civic culture. Chapter 8 serves as a conclusion, summarizing the key characteristics of effective research university outreach programs. (Contains approximately 170 references.) (MDM)

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